

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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The Hotel Bossert, Brooklyn Heights jewel on Montague Street, may have been sold.

Bossert Hotel sold?

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Hotel Bossert, the swanky Montague Street accommodation that was the site of the Dodgers' knock-down, drag-out World Series victory party in 1955 and, more recently, a Jehovah's Witnesses dormitory, has apparently been sold.

Then again, no one's talking. Brownstoner.com, a real-estate Web site, reported that developer Robert A. Levine had bought the 224-unit hotel from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society for "upwards of \$100 million."

But both entities denied the report. "It's not true," Witness spokesman Richard Devine told The Brooklyn Paper. "The hotel has not yet been sold."

Repeated calls to Levine's RAL Companies and Affiliates were not returned.

If Levine has indeed bought the Bossert, it would mark the second high-profile deal between his company and the Witnesses. In 2004, Levine bought the Watchtower's former printing plant at 360 Furman St. for a reported \$200 million. The building is now being converted into the all-luxury One Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The sale of the Bossert — and the attendant buzz that it has created — couldn't have come at a better time. After all, the 14-story Italian Renaissance Revival building at the corner of Montague and Hicks streets is the headline attraction on Saturday's Brooklyn Heights house tour.

The public will get a rare look inside the Bossert's ornate lobby, which was restored to its glory by the Witnesses. (See GO Brooklyn's house tour roundup on page 12.)

The building is also known for the former Marine Roof restaurant on the top floor — a room with views of Manhattan that will not be on the house tour, but will figure prominently in any buyer's plans for the building.

The Bossert is just one of a half-dozen Witness buildings for sale in Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights, where the century-old faith is based. The sell-off comes as the Witnesses have moved most of their publishing and printing operations upstate.

Last year, the Standish Arms Hotel on Columbia Heights sold for \$50 million. At the time, real-estate experts said the Bossert would go for twice that amount.

They were right. Apparently, that is.

VITO'S SHAME

DWI arrest — and love child shocker

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Embattled Rep. Vito Fossella admitted this week to fathering a daughter with the woman who bailed him out of an Alexandria, Virginia jail after his arrest for drunk driving.

In a bombshell statement on Thursday, Fossella said: "I have had a relationship with Laura Fay, with whom I have a 3-year-old daughter.

"My personal failings and imperfections have caused enormous pain to the people I love and I am truly sorry," he added.

Even before Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) admitted to the sexual liaison and paternity, the Washington Post had reported that the six-term lawmaker would drop his bid for re-election.

But Fossella — the city's lone Republican in Congress — did not address his political future, saying that "making any political decisions right now are furthest from my mind."

Rather, he said that his priority "over the coming weeks and months" would be to "work hard to heal the deep wounds I have caused."

The stunning admission capped a topsy-turvy week that began with that drunk-driving arrest early last Thursday in the Virginia suburbs and subsequent reports of an extra-marital affair with Fay, a divorced single mom who lives in Alexandria with her 3-year-old daughter.

The paternity announcement was the latest chapter in a potboiler mystery that began with drinks after a White House party on Wednesday afternoon, led to an arrest for driving with more than twice the legal limit of booze in his system, then asked in a tantalizing mystery when Fossella called his "close friend" to bail him out of jail.



FOSSELLA'S ADMISSION

"I have had a relationship with Laura Fay, with whom I have a three year old daughter. My personal failings and imperfections have caused enormous pain to the people I love and I am truly sorry. While I understand that there will be many questions, including those about my political future, making any political decisions right now are furthest from my mind. Over the coming weeks and months, I will continue to do my job and I will work hard to heal the deep wounds I have caused."

— Statement issued May 8

ter in a potboiler mystery that began with drinks after a White House party on Wednesday afternoon, led to an arrest for driving with more than twice the legal limit of booze in his system, then asked in a tantalizing mystery when Fossella called his "close friend" to bail him out of jail.

He's now facing a mandatory five-day sentence, a House Ethics Committee investigation and personal ruin. Here's how this fast-moving story — and the congressman — went down:

THE BENDER

The wild week began on April 30, when Fossella went on a bender after a typical D.C. politicking. The congressman attended a function

for outgoing Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, which was followed by an afternoon stop at the White House, where President Bush feted the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

From there, a Fossella staffer said, the good times continued at the Logan Tavern in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. The Daily News reported that Fossella showed up at the bar, already intoxicated, at 10 pm.

Fossella and a friend were ejected from the bar after the drinking buddy, who had already passed out at the bar, fell on a table, breaking it, the News reported.

Fossella, who rents a condo in the District of Columbia, got behind the wheel of a Honda Civic and, See FOSSELLA'S SHAME on page 16



Rep. Vito Fossella, who met the press last Friday to apologize for his May 1 drunk-driving arrest, admitted on Thursday that he had a child with the Virginia woman who bailed him out.

Tale of 2 rallies, tale of 2 renderings

Yards foes, supporters battling it out on two fronts



By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner and his foes presented starkly different visions for the mega-project this week — one, a scaled-back, Frank Gehry wonderland, the other, a collection of bulky buildings and a basketball arena surrounded for decades by parking lots.

Fittingly, the rival visions were published on Monday in rival newspapers, with the Daily News trumpeting the new Gehry renderings and the New York Post playing up the Municipal Art Society's far less-glamorous vision in its own exclusive. "The future's 'blight'; Nightmare vision of B'klyn arena."

The Society said it was moved to create the doomsday renderings because Ratner himself has admitted that the 16-tower Atlantic Yards project now contains only two confirmed structures: a residential building and a publicly financed \$950-million basketball arena that he intends to build before the end of 2008.

Yet Ratner has cleared far more land than is needed for just those structures.

"We are concerned that the approach with Atlantic Yards is to build when the market is ready, See ATLANTIC on page 15



By Ben Muessli
The Brooklyn Paper

Union hardhats faced off against with stroller moms — and a half-dozen local elected officials — at rival protests in the footprint of the proposed Atlantic Yards project on Saturday.

The 800 union men — and one or two women — said they want the mega-development to proceed full steam ahead, while some 400 project opponents demanded a "time out" so that state authorities could renegotiate the "sweetheart" deal that is funneling an estimated \$2 billion in taxpayer-subsidized to Ratner to build a bulky project that will tower over low-rise Prospect Heights. "Ratner's plan isn't good for the neighborhood — it's too big and it's too expensive," said Jane Buckwalter of Park Slope.

But even at the loudest moments of the "Time Out" rally, which featured many local politicians and live music, the larger, pro-Atlantic Yards counterprotest roared its support for the project that once called for a Frank Gehry-designed arena and a string of See DUELING on page 15

MEET BRUCE RATNER'S 'PIMP' PAL: P.15



Some sports teams tout their winning record, but the St. Francis College men's water polo team called us this week to report that the Terriers had the highest grade point average of any water polo team in the nation! That 3.73 GPA outpaces Brown (3.40), Stanford (3.34) and Harvard (3.28). But it's not all about book smarts — that Zoltan Danko can still out-swim and out-throw anyone!

Booted artists back on Kent

By Ben Muessli
The Brooklyn Paper

They're back.

Three and a half months after the city evacuated more than 200 tenants from a Kent Avenue building because of an illegal matzo factory in the basement, the first residents returned to their apartments on May 1 — and after 101 days of couch-surfing, they're happy to be home.

"At first, it was a little weird to be back here after so long, but now it feels great to know I have a home again," said photographer Michael Brown, who lived in Greenpoint during the lock-out.

The Fire Department had evacuated

475 Kent Ave. on the frigid night of Jan. 21 after finding three tons of flammable grain in underground silos. Residents had just an hour to gather their belongings.

"When they kicked us out, I figured it would last a week or two before they'd make some kind of arrangements so we could come back," said photographer Geoff Berringer, who moved among three apartments while the building was closed.

Even though the grain was removed within two weeks, the padlocks remained on the 11-story building. Before tenants could return, the Department of Buildings and the FDNY issued the

building with more than 25 infestations, ordering that the landlord remove the basement grain silos and install a new standpipe, sprinklers, carbon dioxide detectors and smoke alarms, among other repairs.

While the work was going on, the evicted residents — mostly artists and other creative types — banded together, maintaining a Web site, organizing art shows, and gathering more than 4,000 signatures on a petition asking Mayor Bloomberg to let them back into their homes.

During their time in purgatory, some tenants became certified fireguards, hoping that their presence would convince the city to

open the building before workers finished installing the sprinklers, but the extensive repairs kept them out of their homes until Thursday.


There is still some work to be done, but the most serious issues — the sprinkler system and the standpipe — have been corrected," said FDNY spokesman Jim Long, whose agency lifted the vacate order at around 4 pm on May 1.

While 475 Kent is no longer a fire hazard, it's still not an entirely legal place to live.

"The Building's Certificate of Occupancy still reflects a manufacturing use and the owner will See KENT on page 13



Writer Martin Peters hauls in his stuff back into 475 Kent Ave. in Williamsburg.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Compiled by Mariel Cohn

Sports cards, memorabilia

With the beginning of baseball season, what better place to find this stuff than **Baseball Card Dugout** in Carroll Gardens. The Dugout has been providing its customers with a super selection of cards, wax boxes, comics, toys and sports statues at great prices for over 14 years. Most people find the family-friendly store to be more like a hang out spot than an uptight store. The atmosphere is so warm and friendly that you can often find customers calling store owner Joe Attianese by his nickname, Joe Rock.

Baseball Card Dugout has weekly sales on sports cards and comics, which can be found at the store website. Baseball Card Dugout, located at 453 Court St., between Fourth Place and Luquer Street, Open Monday through Saturday noon to 7:30 pm, Sunday noon to 5 pm. Call (718) 624-2527 or visit www.joe-rock-cards.com.



Replacements for brownstone doors

Dozens of the beautiful doors you've seen while walking past Brooklyn's historic brownstones have been replaced or restored by **Amighini Architectural** of Jersey City. This family business is dedicated to providing rare doors, structural and decorative elements culled and salvaged from historic residences, palaces, parks, hotels and other buildings from throughout the world.

All items are 100 percent original and have been restored to maintain their original likeness. In its 20,000 square foot showroom, Amighini offers thousands of unique, unusual, and hard-to-find home decor items. They also fabricate many specialty items such as wrought iron gates and balconies, doors, stained glass, and windows from antique wood and lumber. Visit their website, www.amighini.net or stop by their showroom to find the right piece for your next project. Amighini Architectural's showroom is open weekdays 9 am to 6 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 6 pm. They accept Visa and MasterCard.

The studio/spa, called **Urban Zen Spa**, provides seasoned instructors to guide and nurture yoga students with all levels of interests and ability. The spa provides a relaxing atmosphere with organic facials, massages, body scrubs, slimming wraps, hand and foot treatments, and acupuncture. Enjoy their open house, coming up next weekend — a wine and food reception on Sunday, May 17, from 3 to 6 pm, and a free yoga class on Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 2 pm. Visit Urban Zen at 160 Montague St., second floor, between Clinton and Henry streets. Or for more information, call (718) 522-9642 or www.urbanzen.com.

Eco-Friendly Spa opens on Montague

Imagine a place where you can practice yoga, and then be pampered at the spa? That is what **Wendy Chanels of Yoga People** and Regine Rousseau of **Urban Zen Life** have created in the heart of Brooklyn Heights — an eco-friendly center that works together to rejuvenate your body, mind, and soul.

The studio/spa, called **Urban Zen Spa**, provides seasoned instructors to guide and nurture yoga students with all levels of interests and ability. The spa provides a relaxing atmosphere with organic facials, massages, body scrubs, slimming wraps, hand and foot treatments, and acupuncture. Enjoy their open house, coming up next weekend — a wine and food reception on Sunday, May 17, from 3 to 6 pm, and a free yoga class on Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 2 pm. Visit Urban Zen at 160 Montague St., second floor, between Clinton and Henry streets. Or for more information, call (718) 522-9642 or www.urbanzen.com.

Resources for kids with disabilities

Challenge Early Intervention Center is proud to host Gary Shulman, Ms.Ed on Tuesday, May 13, from 6-45 to 9 pm, in its beautiful new site at 649 39th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Sunset Park.

The evening's presentation is called, "Needs, Wants and Wishes ... What's Out There and How to Get It." Shulman will discuss resources available for children with disabilities, ages birth through 21 years, as well as effective advocacy strategies. For further information, call (718) 972-0880 ext. 110.



BrooklynShops

The Brooklyn Paper's Guide to Local Services & Merchants

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Auto Care Park West Auto Body 578 Union Street (718) 875-2495 Vegas Auto Spa Brooklyn's highest quality car wash 555 Seventh Ave. (718) 768-9274	Cell Phones Cobble Hill Wireless 495 Henry St. (718) 243-0844	Framing BROOKLYN FRAME WORKS Brooklyn Frame Works 142 Fifth Ave. (718) 399-6813	Sid's Hardware 345 Jay St. (718) 875-2259	Jewelry Casale Jewelers 306 Court St. (718) 852-6344 Jewels by Satnick Brooklyn's most trusted jeweler 187 Duane St. (718) 852-1421	Pets Brooklyn Dog House Brooklyn Dog House offers 2 dog day playgrounds with over \$1000 in toys, including play and social 327 Douglass St. (718) 222-4900
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Dessert Traditional Italian Cheese Cake Custore Di Mamma Vanilla mousseline filled with cherries, served with black forest fruit sauce Coffee or Tea (Cappuccino & Espresso \$1.50 Extra)	Strudel Di Mela Apple strudel served with ice cream Gelato Di Ricotta Ricotta ice cream

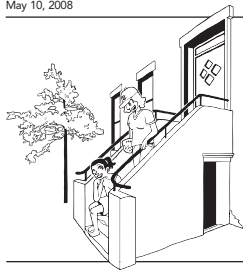
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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

COLUMBIA STREET



Thomas Pynchon as a young man.

Pynchon a no show at bash

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Here's a surprise: Author Thomas Pynchon didn't show up at a party in his honor on Sunday at Freebird Books.

Then again, if the reclusive author of "Mason & Dixon" and "V" had shown up, would anyone even know?

Yes, say fans at the Columbia Street bookshop, which marked the rarely photographed New York author's 71st birthday with a backyard barbecue. (The writer's actual birthday on May 8.)

"He was here — I would have known," said Anthony Antoniadis, who organized the party (which also celebrated the almost-finished reconstruction of Columbia Street that began three years ago — amount of time it takes to read a Pynchon novel).

As a few dozen people trickled in to the store, at 123 Columbia St., between Kane and DeGraw streets, during the afternoon, it was evident that free food and drink on a sunny weekend attracts more than just diehard readers, though a few of them were on hand, too.

"As far as historical fiction, there's no one like him," said Tom Gills, an ardent Pynchonite.

Others who had never cracked a hefty Pynchon tome popped in, too, cheerful that the main thoroughfare in the neighborhood had been repaired and that the portions of the bike path had been paved.

"The street finally looks like it's a street and not a skate-board park," said Michael Webster.

As part of the festivities, a fax machine, set up next to trays of hot dogs and hamburgers, fired off handwritten messages, some decorated with Pynchonesque symbols, to the Midtown office of Pynchon's wife, a literary agent.

One woman expressed her jealousy of Pynchon's sway over her boyfriend, pining, "If only I could make his eyes light up and inspire the enthusiasm he shows" when talking about the author giving a point of view to inanimate objects.

Others were not impressed by the literary powers on display in books like "Gravity's Rainbow."

"You lowered an otherwise average GPA. I see no reason to read further," read another fax.

A call to Pynchon's wife's office was not returned. The Brooklyn Paper was seeking comment on the Pynchon birthday party — and her opinion of the Columbia Street repair.

COBBLE HILL & WILLIAMSBURG

Three-alarm firehouse deal

But city can't extinguish controversy

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Two firehouses decommissioned amid intense protests in 2003 will be reborn — one as a home for the borough's no-music orchestra and the other as a community center.

The former home of Engine 204 on Degraw Street in Cobble Hill will be leased to the Brooklyn Philharmonic for 10 years, while two community service groups, the People's Firehouse and Neighbors Allied for Good Growth (which goes by the acronym, NAG), will take over the Engine 212's station on Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg.

"Good economic development should always be accompanied by development that makes communities more attractive places to live and work," said



The Brooklyn Philharmonic has won the rights to develop this former firehouse on Degraw Street into offices and a community space.

Economic Development Corporation President Seth Pinsky.

For the Brooklyn Phil, which will use the building for administrative offices and an "intimate" performance space, the new building ends its 10-year nomadic journey through the borough since its

use," said J. Barclay Collins II, the orchestra's chairman.

The firehouses have been in a smoldering controversy since the city shuttered them to cut costs in 2003.

Protestors, including actor (and former firefighter) Steve Buscemi and local elected officials, were arrested after forming a human chain in front of the Cobble Hill firehouse. The group claimed that the closing would significantly slow emergency response times, but that has not happened.

Still, the situation flared up again when the city said it would sell the buildings, but Mayor Bloomberg blocked them from becoming condos. The strategy reduced the criticism, but didn't extinguish it.

"I hope the next administration will take a look at bringing the firehouse back. Until then, I am pleased it will be put to a community use," said Councilmember Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) referring to the Degraw Street station, where he was arrested.

FORT GREENE

A glimpse inside Fort Greene Park monument

The Brooklyn Paper

Eighty years is a long time to wait, so forgive us if we were a bit underwhelmed by our first glimpse inside the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument inside Fort Greene Park, which opened for the first time in decades this Sunday.

But that's all right, given that the real treat was outside the 150-foot, McKim, Meade and White-designed monolith, which now sits amid a newly landscaped and tiled plaza at the zenith of the park.

Isn't it wonderful what the Parks Department has done here?" asked Ruth Goldstein, a member of the Fort Greene Association.

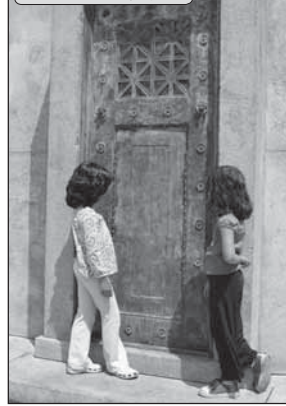
But for Goldstein, the present is only prologue: November will mark the centennial of the monument's dedication (it was



a big deal: President Taft was there), and there'll be a huge party to celebrate the occasion — including a look inside the crypt, where the remains of 8,000 of the 11,000 Americans who died on British prison ships during our Revolution, are kept.

The Fort Greene Park Conservancy is still looking for volunteers to make the Nov. 14-16 centennial a true blowout. If you're interested, call Ruth Goldstein at (718) 596-0899.

http://
Check out our video coverage at BrooklynPaper.com



The inside of the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument (left) was open to the public for the first time in years on Sunday.

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Tot Shabbat

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The gun, fake: the horror, real

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Three teens were arrested after holding up a woman at gunpoint — or at least what she thought was gunpoint — on 13th Street on April 27.

Cops say that the woman was near her house, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, at just before midnight, when the three teens approached and one pulled a gun and said, "This is a real gun. Give me all your money."

Though he was lying — the gun was plastic — he was able to hold the 30-year-old victim at bay while his accomplices rifled her pockets and bag, taking a laptop computer, a cellphone, an iPod and a digital camera.

Within minutes, however, the "gunman" was spotted by police, who saw him throw the fake fire-arm away as he fled.

I got no place to go. That's why I'm out here doing this," he allegedly told the cops.

In short order, cops nabbed his accomplices, one of whom had the iPod still in his pocket, police said. All three arrested men — age 16, 17 and 19 — are from Canarsie.

Cell hell

Thieves took advantage of a man who was talking on his cellphone on April 28. Shortly after noon, several perps ran up to the man as he chatted on Ninth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues and "forcibly" threw him to the ground, cops said.

They took the 24-year-old man's phone, his iPod and his fancy eyeglasses, and then fled.

Double trouble
A thief stole two laptop computers from a Seventh Avenue apartment on April 28.

Cops say the thief broke into the apartment, which is between 13th and 14th streets, sometime after 9 a.m. and took not only two computers, but a Nikon camera and a tote bag in which to carry his ill-gotten booty.

Ear ring

Two men bashed a Flatbush Avenue jewelry store clerk and grabbed two pairs of diamond earrings from a showcase on April 30.

The men entered the store, which is between Park and Sterling places, at around 4 p.m. and asked to see the merchandise. Then, without warning, they both pummeled the clerk, 31, and ran out with the earrings, which were valued at \$1,200.

POLICE BLOTTER

Six is enough

Six teenagers violently mugged a woman on a Manhattan-bound F train on April 29, stealing hundreds of dollars in electronics while the train was between the 15th Street and Seventh Avenue stations.

Cops say the six 16-year-olds entered the train at 15th Street and surrounded their 42-year-old victim. One of the boys grabbed her iPod while two others punched her arm until she surrendered her pocketbook.

Three of the teens got off the train, and the victim held open the doors in hopes of finding help. But a fourth teen threatened her, and she got off the train, allowing some of the perps to flee on the subway. The other teens vanished up the station stairs.

In all, the Queens woman lost her iPod, \$250 and sunglasses.

Compuburg

A thief broke into a storage room at a Flatbush Avenue computer store on April 29 and sneaked out through an adjoining store with close to \$6,500 in equipment.

Cops believe the thief entered the rear of the neighboring store, which is between Pacific Street and Fifth Avenue, sometime between 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., entered the bathroom and then broke into the computer store.

Once inside, he helped himself to 11 laptops and one plasma-screen TV, then fled through a cellar door.

It is unclear how he could have gotten away with so many items during the day.

Drum down

A thief swiped a teenager's cellphone right out of her hand as she strolled through Prospect Park's "Drummer's Circle" on April 30.

The musician, of course, was nowhere to be found on a weekday, so the thief was able to escape with the \$200 phone.

"If you follow me, bad things will happen to you," he told his 14-year-old victim.

Jeon fight

A shoplifter didn't have an easy time when he tried to steal jeans from a Garfield Place store on May 2, thanks to a clerk who put up a fight to save the merchandise.

Cops say the thief entered the store, near Seventh Avenue, at

5 pm and grabbed four pairs of Hudson jeans.

The 21-year-old clerk spotted the thief and pounced on him, but the perp broke free and ran out with the jeans. —Gersh Kuntzman

RAPED Teen sexually assaulted at Library

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Two men raped a mentally retarded teenager in the bathroom of the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch on Grand Army Plaza on April 14, cops said.

According to police, the victim, who suffers from Down Syndrome and cannot communicate verbally, did not indicate to her family that someone had happened to her, but her relatives figured out that she was in pain and took her to the hospital.

Once there, doctors discovered trauma and other evidence that she had been sexually assaulted, cops said.

A spokeswoman at the library said it was unaware of the incident. She said the library had not been contacted by the police.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

A man and woman stole a car that had just been dropped off by a customer at an Atlantic Avenue garage on April 27.

The victim left her car for "minor body work" around 1 p.m. the garage between Grand and Classon avenues. When she returned at 8:30 p.m., another customer informed her that a woman, accompanied by a man, had driven off with her Dodge.

Thief on wheels

A bicycle riding down a woman's bag from her shoulder in one swoop as he pedaled past her on Myrtle Avenue on April 25.

The purloined satchel, nicked at 8 p.m. at a bus stop near Emerson Place, contained a laptop belonging to the woman's company.

Raising a cane

A teenage boy was punched and caned by three men on South Oxford Street on May 2.

The assailants struck near the corner of Fulton Street at 8 p.m., whacking the 18-year-old with a cane and pummeling him with fists to the face so brutally that EMS workers took him to Brooklyn Hospital for treatment.

The wages of the villain's sins? An iPod, cellular phone and a pair of earrings.

Not fab four

Police arrested four people for trying to knock over a Fulton Street bodega on May 4.

Three women and one man, ranging in age from 15 to 23, invaded at 12:30 a.m. and immediately starting causing mayhem in the deli between Grand Ave-

ue and Cambridge Place.

One of the thugs first tried to buy some goodies with a ripped \$5 bill, which the clerk declined to accept. Pandemonium ensued. The man with the ripped money pulled out a box cutter and menaced one of the victims.

Meanwhile, one of the young ladies in the group punched and kicked the other victim, un-

bush avenues, told police he was not home between 3:15 and 5:30 p.m. Damage done to his front door alerted him that he had had a visitor while he was out.

Upon inspecting his residence, he saw that his laptop and assorted electronics were stolen.

Jeon genie

A shoplifter stole 15 pairs of designer jeans from a Smith Street retailer on May 1.

It was a hit-and-run crime — the thief entered the store, between Dean and Bergen streets, grabbed the denim, and made a quick exit at 2 p.m.

To the hilt

Knife-wielding ruffians mugged a man on the Flatbush Avenue Extension on May 2.

The villains grabbed the teenage victim by the neck at 2:25 p.m., threw him to the wall near the corner of Fleet Street, and pressed their knife blades in his ribcage, though they didn't cut him. The victim gave up his phone.

Hopping bad

A pharmacy on Court Street was robbed on May 3 by a fire-freighter robber.

After filling his coat with boxes of toiletries and cosmetics at 9:12 a.m., the store was seen running around the street, near the corner of Jerusalem Street, hoping over the counter and waving a knife at any employee who came to close.

No one saw any value in trying to be a hero to stop the man from escaping with Claritin and teeth-whitening strips, so he was able to flee.

Feet of fury

A burglar broke into a State Street house by kicking a hole through the garden level door on either April 28 or 29.

The villain ripped off a contractor employed to renovate the house between Clinton and Court streets, taking a bevy of tools stored away in the basement, but nothing from the resident.

The contractor told police that the thief occurred between 10 a.m. on April 28 and 8 a.m. the next day.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Bad delivery

Thugs roughed up a deliveryman on May 4, punching him in the face and stealing his cellphone.

After bringing food to an apartment on Manhattan Avenue between Moore and Seigel streets, a teenage crook jumped the 51-year-old victim at around 3:25 p.m., cops say. The crook, with the backing of several friends, slugged the deliveryman in the face until he forked over the mobile.

Shoe jacking

A vicious crook put a knife to a Manhattan Avenue man's throat at around 1 a.m., forcing his victim to fork over more than

\$2,000 of valuables — including his Nikes.

The thug grabbed the victim from behind at the corner of Mercer Street and Graham Avenue, brandishing the blade.

"Give me your —," the mugger said.

The victim obliged, handing over his green Nike high-tops, his clothing, a sleeping bag, a wallet, credit cards, a passport, IDs, a cellphone, an iPod and \$300.

See BLOTTER on page 5

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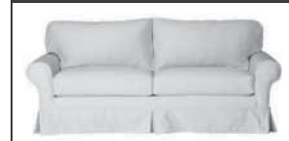
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Maimonides Good Health Message #31

Scoliosis. The sooner it's detected, the better the chance of correcting it.



Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez Olaverri, MD
Maimonides Medical Center
Orthopedic Surgery & Musculoskeletal Services

Scoliosis is a common condition found in both children and adults, but is most often first diagnosed during the teenage years. Fortunately, it can usually be treated effectively — especially when it's detected early.

During a routine physical exam, a doctor is likely to check a young patient for this problem (many schools also have screening programs). Scoliosis usually presents itself as some form of asymmetry, from uneven shoulders to an uneven waist or hips. A doctor may recommend an x-ray to confirm the diagnosis and to assess the shape and the degree of the abnormal curvature.

In most cases, the cause of the scoliosis is idiopathic, meaning it has no known underlying cause. We do know that it typically runs in families and that girls are more likely to experience a worsening of the curvature than boys.

Most kids with scoliosis won't require any treatment because the curve in their spine is minor. They should still be checked and monitored every few months as they continue to grow to make sure their scoliosis doesn't become worse.

At the Maimonides Medical Center Division of Orthopedic Surgery & Musculoskeletal Services, we frequently treat patients with advanced scoliosis. A common treatment involves the use of a back brace, which does not reverse the condition, but can prevent it from progressing. The idea of wearing a back brace to school can be a bit daunting for a teen, but we work with our young patients to help them understand that the brace shouldn't prevent them from enjoying many of their normal activities as well as the long-term benefits of fixing this problem early on.

Severe scoliosis, if allowed to progress, can cause serious problems down the road, from back pain to pulmonary problems that make it more difficult to breathe. In rare cases, surgery may be necessary. In the surgical procedure, the spine is encouraged to fuse so that it will stabilize and not continue to curve abnormally.

The key to fixing scoliosis is early detection and intervention. The younger and more flexible a spine is, the better the chance of encouraging it to keep its normal shape.

If your child's doctor suspects that your child has scoliosis, I encourage you to contact my office at 718-783-5542. My colleagues and I would be happy to work with you to determine the most effective course of action so that your child can continue to live a normal, healthy life.



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OUR OPINION

Vito must step aside

Rep. Vito Fossella's admission on Thursday that he has led a double life — simultaneously a devoted family man on Staten Island, and also a congressman with a secret mistress and a 3-year-old daughter in Virginia — made no mention of whether he would resign from office to "heal the deep wounds I have caused."

But the congressman needs to take the logical final step: he must resign sooner, rather than later.

Regardless of the outcome of Fossella's legal and personal struggles, voters in Bay Ridge and Staten Island will simply not be served during the final six months of Fossella's current term unless the six-term congressman resigns immediately.

Consider this: In the week since Fossella got arrested after running a red light for having twice the legal limit of alcohol in his bloodstream, his office has been entirely consumed by the scandal.

Worse, the revelation that Fossella was having a secret affair with Fay — and had successfully kept the existence of their 3-year-old daughter hidden from the media — suggests that there will be much, much more to this scandal, which will turn Fossella from a congressman into a punch-

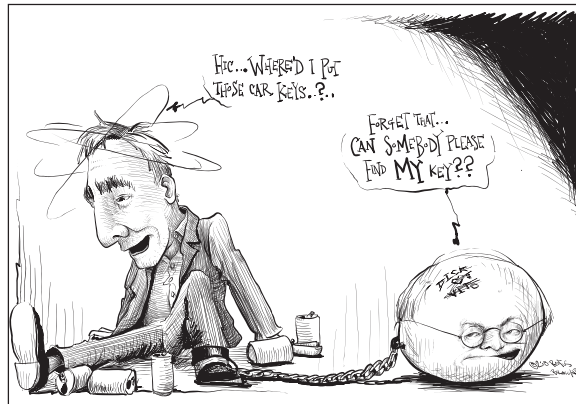
ing bag.

For example, were any of Fossella's shenanigans underwritten by taxpayers? Were Fossella's positions on military issues influenced by his sexual relationship with Fay, who was, get this, an Air Force congressional liaison? How much more money will Fossella divert from his campaign contributors to manage the scandal?

And how much time will Fossella divert for damage control — time that is supposed to be reserved for his constituents?

We suggest that Fossella avoid the drawn-out bloodletting and quit right now.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Yards foes: Let's set the records straight

To the editor,

Letter writer Thomasina Millet of Crown Heights recently wrote that "it's a little ironic that the [Brooklyn Museum] protest was staged by Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn since the group no more represents the greater non-white, non-brownstone Brooklyn community than Ratner does. When does DDDB get an award of its own for defending the property rights of million-dollar homeowners?" That takes guts for a bunch of progressive Democrats ("Mixed message," Letters, April 26).

Millet is furthering an insidious myth. Those who have already been displaced by the threat of eminent domain, and those who remain steadfast in their homes, include rent-stabilized tenants, homeowners, business owners and commercial property owners. This courageous group includes African-Americans, whites, Latinos, and people of South Asian and Middle Eastern descent.

Last we checked, these were all Americans deserving the right to defend what they view as an abuse of their constitutional rights, and an improper seizure of their homes and businesses. DDDB's support of these tenants and owners is resolute, and absolute.

As for whom DDDB represents, first, and foremost, we represent those Brooklynites and New Yorkers who oppose Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards boondoggle and instead support responsible, democratic development.

And we're a large group. We have the financial support of more than 1,000 members of the community, with a median donation of just \$50. We are one of 26 community groups aligned on a major lawsuit challenging the project's approval.

Over more than four years of daily grassroots organizing, we've learned that opposition to Ratner's proposal (as well as the meager support that exists, for that matter) cuts across racial, ethnic, neighborhood and class lines, a fact that has been evidenced again and again.

Daniel Goldstein, Prospect Heights
The writer is a spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

give the people affordable housing — just get Ratner out of the way so the community can make something that maximizes benefits for all, not just for some billionaire who thinks about earning his billions before everybody else's needs.

Steve de Sève, Brooklyn Heights

To the editor,

Your recent story about the city's use of taxpayer dollars to underwrite Bruce Ratner's land purchases ("Tax dollars paid for this mess," May 3) was insightful. In too many cases, projects have been heavily subsidized by taxpayers, commonly known as corporate welfare. Between direct government funding, low interest loans and long term tax exemptions, the bill to taxpayers may be greater than the benefits.

There also is a relationship between pay-to-play campaign contributions from developers to elected officials looking for favorable legislation, permits and subsidies. Don't forget the conflict of interest for senior staff from city or state regulatory and permitting agencies.

Too many leave at the end of any mayoral or governor's administration to become consultants to the same developers they previously oversaw (yes, I'm talking about you,

former Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff).

Too many mega-developers try to purchase the support of local community groups by making so-called voluntary donations. They also make promises for capital improvements, which don't always appear.

If these projects such as Atlantic Yards are so worthwhile, why can't major developers such as Bruce Ratner use their own funds or obtain loans from banks rather than pick the pockets of taxpayers? Real business people who believe in capitalism build their companies on their own.

How sad that they continue looking for shortcuts in the form of huge subsidies and favors from elected officials.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, L.I.

Green church blues

To the editor,

It's appalling to see the United Methodist Church authorizing the exhumation of past members who were buried on their grounds ("Tales from the crypts at Green Church," April 26).

How hard up for cash can any church be that they disrespect the dead? What's next, Disney buying Green-Wood Cemetery and turning it into an amusement park?

Thomas Pendergast, Windsor Terrace

Micro-soft

To the editor,

After reading your article about a pending Microsoft store ("Apple of their eye: Microsoft 'banks' on Brooklyn for first store," May 3), I was thinking, "How silly." But then I saw a story in your competitor, the Onion, entitled, "Thousands wait overnight at Microsoft stores for second generation Zune."

Clearly, your story was true!

Jeff Graber, Gowanus
The writer is owner of the Mac Support Store in Park Slope.

Send a letter

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

Gawker: Dorky Brooklyn Paper Podcasts are totally 'awesome'

The Brooklyn Paper

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Just two weeks after reporters at The Brooklyn Paper started posting quick-draw Podcasts on the award-winning BrooklynPaper.com Website, our efforts were noticed by Gawker.com.

The usually jaded editors ran an item on our Tuesday cast about the latest Forest City Ratner lie. The Gawker headline read, "Brooklyn Paper dorks make awesome podcast."

The item went on to call Editor Gersh Kuntzman "pretty cute" (lies!) and Senior Reporter Mike McLaughlin "totally nerdy" (an exaggeration!). It even called our DUMBO offices "glamorous" (completely accurate in every way).

Want to get in on all the fun? Check out our latest podcast, "Meet the 'Dorks' of The Brooklyn Paper," available now at www.BrooklynPaper.com.





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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 10, 2008

Austin on 'Paris'

Carroll Gardens-based choreographer reimagines ancient beauty contest

By Joshua David Stein
for The Brooklyn Paper

In Ovid's telling of "The Judgment of Paris," Paris's dilemma is an embarrassment of riches. Three beautiful goddesses appear before him and he must decide who among them — Athena, Hera and Aphrodite — is the finest. The three strut and fuss over the Trojan. Eventually, Paris chooses Aphrodite, after she promises him the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen. The only problem is Helen, of Troy, is already wed to King Menelaus, who is understandably upset with his wife's departure and thus starts the Trojan War.

Happily, Austin McCormick's production — which opened on Friday in Carroll Gardens — doesn't end with any bloodshed and is almost embarrassingly rich, too.

In McCormick's staging, the great epic of antiquity unfolds on a rarely traveled portion of Bond Street, one block west from the Gowanus Canal. Inside a plain white warehouse — a former tow-truck garage — McCormick's dance troupe, Company XIV, strips, sings and dances its way through the tale.

The 24-year-old McCormick, an elfin dancer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, found the space during the great MTA strike of 2005.

"My broker was biking down Bond Street and saw the 'For Sale' sign," he told GO Brooklyn. Now, black marley flooring takes up three-quarters of the cavernous space. (The 70 audience members are relegated to a strip near the garage door.)

From the moment the visitor enters, he can sense this isn't a recitation of the myth he'd read in college: scaffolding lines stages right and left; a caressed pony, half a Grecian column and a stage-on-wheels sit far upstage; a chandelier and strings of Christmas lights hang from the ceiling.

And then there are the performers.



Risque business: No children under 17 are allowed entrance to the world premiere of Austin McCormick's (right, with dancer Davon Rainey) titillating version of "The Judgment of Paris" (far right), on stage in Carroll Gardens (above) through May 31.

Gloria Marchese, as a zany Aphrodite, spends much of her time on stage — and all of her time in costume: there are no hidden wings in this theater — in a tight fitting, golden brassiere. The same can be said for Helen, played ably by the gifted Samantha Ernst. Cupid, played by the epicure Davon Rainey; and by Aphrodite's helpers, Yeva Glover and Laura Careless. Even when they're wearing skirts, they spend an inordinate amount of time hiking them up. Toby Burns, the wonderfully operatic Johnny Depp look-alike who plays Paris, wears a pair of golden tights that leave little to the imagination.

As one might expect for a retelling of a primitive nude beauty contest, it's rather risqué. According to the program, the play isn't intended for those under 16 years of age, making it perhaps the first NC-17 contemporary burlesque dance ever.

McCormick, who has no children, claimed, "There's nothing vulgar in it. I'd bring my kid to it."



He has been dancing since he was eight years old in Santa Barbara, Calif., and hasn't left the theater since. In fact, his first role was in a — one would hope — more tame version of "Last Judgment of Paris."

According to McCormick, "[Last Judgment] has everything: love, tragedy, lust." His production also, more concretely, has everything. Like baking soda in the fridge, it has absorbed the hundreds of flavors of a life led in theater.

Alongside the classic pantheon one finds opera bouffe, the technological fragmentation

and microphone tricks of the Wooster Group, tender pas-de-deux, and the music of Marlene Dietrich and Arvo Part. Burns as Paris seems to switch from "Cabaret" to "Le Belle Hésène" to "Willy Wonka." It's a little fragmented, more than a little frantic but completely engaging.

The question is, is Carroll Gardens ready for the blood, love, lust and betrayal of McCormick's "Last Judgment of Paris"?

The choreographer, who lives in Chelsea but "fell in love with Carroll Gardens," laughs nervously.

"We'll see," said McCormick. "We'll see."

THEATER

Company XIV's "The Judgment of Paris" is performed at 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, now through May 31 at 303 Bond Street (Bond Street between Union and Sackett streets in Carroll Gardens). Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students. No one under 16 admitted. For tickets, call (212) 866-4444 or visit www.enrth.com.

Elmes grows new roots

Galapagos Art Space director talks about his venue's new home in DUMBO

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

On Wednesday, May 14, Galapagos Art Space — the pioneering cultural center that is undergoing a move from Williamsburg to DUMBO — will open to the public for the first time. Although the space will be used to exhibit video for the New York

Photo Festival, just as interesting is what founder and Director Robert Elmes has planned for the space. As the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified cultural institution in New York City, Galapagos will feature innovative eco-friendly touches (including well water and a possible roof garden) to match the cutting-edge performance schedule.

GO Brooklyn sat down with Elmes in the park at the foot of Washington Street to discuss the venue's future down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass.

GO Brooklyn: When the doors open on May 14, what will the public see in the new Galapagos space?

See GALAPAGOS on page 10



New location: Galapagos Art Space will offer a sneak peak inside its new DUMBO venue on May 14.

THEATER

'Black' is back



A production by the National Theater of Scotland, "Blackwatch" (pictured) follows a regiment of soldiers as they fight in the Iraq war. The previous 23 performances, which took place last fall at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO, all sold out. So the producers vowed to bring it back.

"We have to satisfy our audience," director John Tiffany said from his office in Glasgow. "We had such a brilliant time in November that we felt like we hadn't finished our job in a way. There was talk of moving it to a bigger venue, but a Brooklyn theater just felt right. I'm delighted that it's going to remain at St. Ann's."

For those who loved it last year — or who have been kicking themselves for not getting tickets before they sold out the first time around — tickets are on sale now for the upcoming run.

"Blackwatch" runs Oct. 9 through Nov. 30 at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO). Tickets are \$55 to \$75. For information, call (718) 254-8779 or visit www.stannswarehouse.org.

— Adam Rathe

ART

Is this not art?

Dust off your energy dome hats and radiation suits — Devo is back! On Saturday at 8 pm, the seminal New Wave band will be honored with "The Super Thing: NYC Goes DEVO," a night of art, live music and costumes at Williamsburg arts fortress 3rd Ward.

"It's a very exciting show," said curator Alison Levy. "I love the band. They are underrated and misunderstood. [Just like] a lot of artwork which is clever and political."

The band's compelling aesthetic is one of the most amazing, complete art projects ever made.

The show will feature work from local artists like Bedford-Stuyvesant's Wayne Coc as well as new art from former Devo frontman Mark Mothersbaugh (center).

The celebration will also feature an interactive talk with Mothersbaugh. "The Super Thing: NYC Goes DEVO" runs May 10 through June 1 at 3rd Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Stagg Street in Williamsburg). Admission is free. For information, call (718) 715-4961 or visit www.3rdward.com.

— Adam Rathe

NIGHTLIFE

Pot of gold

On Monday, May 12, supporters of the Brooklyn Philharmonic are invited to gather around the piano at the Rainbow Room in Manhattan, where award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch ("Chorus Line," "The Way We Were") will be tickling the ivories.

The Philharmonic's spring gala benefit dinner will be a bittersweet affair as the excitement of seeing Hamlisch will be tempered by the sad news that the orchestra is bidding adieu to its president and CEO, Cathy Cahill, who is moving on to the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia to assume the same titles.

Cahill is leaving on a high note, indeed, as the philharmonic announced plans last week to transform a former firehouse at 299 Degraw St. in Cobble Hill into a permanent home, the BP Music Center.

Benefit ticket-holders will also enjoy an award ceremony and silent live auctions.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic's 2008 Spring Gala begins at 6:30 pm on May 12 at the Rainbow Room (20 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan). Tickets are \$750 and \$1000. For reservations, call (718) 488-5700 or visit the Web site www.brooklynphilharmonic.org.

— Lisa J. Curtis



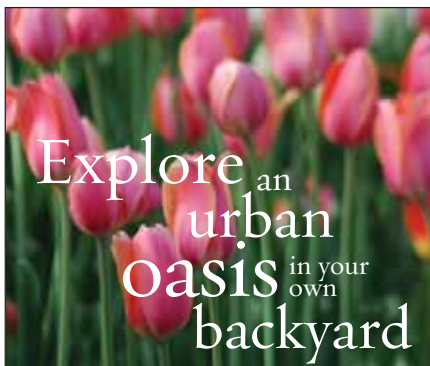
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EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY

May 10

BWAC attack

Featuring over 330 artists in a 25,000-square-foot space, the Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition's spring show, "Spring Ahead," opens today in Red Hook. Featuring work like "Rocker" by Sunset Park resident Carlo Grassini (pictured), the show will run on weekends through June 15.

1 pm-6 pm at 499 Van Brunt St., at Beard Street in Red Hook. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 596-2506 or visit www.bwac.org.

SUNDAY

May 11

Byrne unit

"True Stories," the David Byrne-directed 1986 film featuring Byrne (pictured), John Goodman and Spaulding Gray, is screening today at BAMcinematek as part of its retrospective of cinematographer Ed Lachman's work. After the film, Byrne and Lachman will answer audience questions.

8:15 pm at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$11. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.

WEDNESDAY

May 14

Oh 'Baby'!

"Baby Mama," starring Tina Fey (pictured), was shot in Park Slope and is currently playing at the BAM Rose Cinemas in Fort Greene. For a less Hollywood look at the miracle of life, drop into the Brooklyn Hospital Center today for a free pregnancy test. Unfortunately, popcorn will not be available.

9 am to 5 pm at Brooklyn Hospital Center at Victory Memorial Hospital (699 52nd St. at Seventh Avenue in Bay Ridge). Free. For information, call (718) 567-2500.

THURSDAY

May 15

Little black book

To celebrate the release of "Nothing But the Truth," edited by Tim McLoughlin (pictured), Alaskan Press and the Brooklyn Historical Society are throwing a party. Writers from this first non-fiction collection in the "Brooklyn Noir" series will read, and a wine and cheese reception will follow.

6:30 pm at the Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Piermont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). Free. For information, call (718) 222-4111 or visit www.brooklynhistory.org.

FRIDAY

May 16

'Allen' town

Hailing from Greenvale and Williamsburg, The Bishop Allen (pictured) secured a place for itself on the borough's mantle of notable rock bands with the release of last year's "The Broken String." Tonight at the Music Hall of Williamsburg, \$15 in advance, \$15 at the door. For information, call (718) 486-5400 or visit www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, MAY 10

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HEIGHTS HOUSE TOUR: 23rd annual Brooklyn Heights Association self-guided tour features several of the neighborhood's homes, and a look at the lobby of Hotel Bessie. \$20. 1 pm to 5 pm. 129 Piermont St. (718) 596-9193.

WALKING TOUR: Big Onion Walking Tours hosts an introduction to Green-Wood cemetery. \$15. \$12 seniors, \$10 students and New York Historical Society members. 1 pm. (212) 439-1090.

PERFORMANCE

ENDGAME: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Samuel Beckett's "Endgame." John Turturro stars along with Max Casella, Elaine Stritch and Alvin Epstein. \$25 to \$75. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

SHAKESPEARE: Brooklyn College Department of Theater presents "Two Gentlemen of Verona." \$5. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Genshwin Theater. 200 Bedford Ave. (718) 951-4500.

GALLERY PLAYERS: Musical "Man of La Mancha." \$18. \$14 seniors and children 12 and younger. 2 pm and 8 pm. 199 14th St. (212) 352-3101.

STREB SLAM: Extreme action, blending dance, gymnastics, physics and the circus. \$20. \$10 kids. 3 pm and 7 pm. Streb's Williamsburg Action Factory. 51 N. First St. (718) 384-4491.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: presents "Ben"—A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin. \$20. \$18 seniors, 3 pm and 7 pm. Harry Warren Theater. 3445 Bath Ave. (718) 796-4800.

DANCE: Dance group XIV performs "The Judgment of Paris," a story and theatrical dance show. \$20. \$15 seniors. 8 pm. 303 Bond St. (212) 868-4444.

CONCERT: St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs for cells and string quartet. \$20. \$10 student rush. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. (212) 594-6141.

BARBERSHIRE: Classical music. Works by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. \$35. \$30 seniors and students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0263.

THE BRICK: presents preview of "Babylon Babylon," a mix of Herodotus, Cecil B. DeMille, Kenneth Anger, Richard Schickel and others. \$15. 8 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (212) 352-3101.

NARROWS THEATRE: presents Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None." \$15. \$12 seniors and children. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 7th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 462-3173.

OTHER

BOOK SALE: Thousands of books, CDs, records, videos and more. 9 am to 4 pm. First Unitarian Congregational Society. 50 Monroe Pl. (718) 624-5566.

FLEA MARKET: hosted by the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 4 pm. 817 7th Pkwy. (718) 837-0412.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

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Little Bangkok

Park Slope's Seventh Avenue births fourth Thai restaurant

By Chris Varmus
For The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope is turning into a veritable Little Bangkok. On Seventh Avenue, between Eighth and 15th streets, there are four Thai restaurants. This reporter likes pad Thai as much as the next guy, but is there really room for all of these eateries?

Park Slope Lauren Faria doesn't think so. "There are so many Thai restaurants," she said. "Where's the Cuban? Ethiopian?"

For a neighborhood that boasts a variety of cuisine — from Latin to Middle Eastern — this one stretch has a startling number of restaurants that, at a glance, don't seem at all dissimilar. We decided to get a closer look and find out what each spot has to offer.

Beet Thai Restaurant

Restaurant Pat McDermott opened Beet Thai Restaurant two years ago, after finding success with his other Park Slope Thai restaurant, Mango, which is further north on Seventh Avenue. Beet distinguishes itself from the pack with its new menu of Thai-Western fusion: the experimental, specialty menu — "Pat reads a lot of books at home, but he did



The Brooklyn Paper's Chris Varmus



The Brooklyn Paper's Chris Varmus



The Brooklyn Paper's Chris Varmus

All Thai'd up: Rice Thai Kitchen, on Seventh Avenue at Eighth Street, offers traditional decor (right) and dishes such as the basil chicken (left). Beet Thai Restaurant (below left) boasts a contemporary setting to enjoy new interpretations of Thai cuisine.

n't have time for [culinary] school," his sister Kate said — includes a Thai crepe stuffed with ground peanuts, sweet radish, scallion and sun-dried tomato sauce (\$6); torilla-crusted tilapia with three avocados and avocado (\$15); and blackened ahi with colossal shrimp-mango salsa (\$16).

Beet also serves more traditional Thai dishes including noodles and curries, although some have an unexpected English or French twist like the Thai wok (chicken, beef, shrimp, crispy duck, squid, snapper, salmon or red snapper filet) with cognac-Worcestershire sauce.

Beet's sleek, ultra-modern decor, complete with a beat-hued neon light, draws patrons in for more than just the food — and the full bar doesn't hurt.

Beet Thai Restaurant (344 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street in Park Slope) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa.

The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner. For information, call (718) 832-2338 or visit www.beetthai.com.

Rice Thai Kitchen

Rice Thai Kitchen opened seven years ago, making it one of the oldest on the Seventh Avenue strip, and appropriately, it has the most traditional decor of the bunch. There's a large stone statue of a slender Buddha in the entranceway and a wall of various woodcarvings, including one of the current king and queen of Thailand.

Lunch specials — which come with rice, soup, salad and a spring roll — are \$7 and are served in sectioned enamel plates to a crowd of mostly non-Thai folk.

"They seem to know what they're doing more than some of the newer places," said one Park Sloper who declined to be named. "They've been

around a while, so it makes sense." Rice Thai Kitchen (311 Seventh Ave. between Eighth and Ninth streets in Park Slope, (718) 832-9512) accepts MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Thai Tony's

Thai Tony's is the strip's newest arrival, having opened just this past month in the space formerly occupied by — guess what? — a Thai restaurant called Nick. With only two stools, this tiny tuckered joint, although clean and modern in design, isn't exactly a dining destination.

Thankfully, they do deliver, for free. Disappointingly, the "ginger chicken" we tried was bland and devoid of color. It came with run-of-the-mill vegetables (apart from the fresh ginger), and rice that lacked the fluffiness and stickiness one might expect. Thankfully, we had a glass of the tasty Thai iced tea to wash it down.

"I love the ginger tea," said one Park Slope customer who was in and out with her takeout order before we could catch her name.

Thai Tony's (447 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope) accepts cash only. The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner. For information, call (718) 788-3610 or visit www.thaitony.com.

Watana Restaurant

An offshoot of Rice Thai Kitchen, Watana opened two years ago — just five blocks away from its older sister, Mango. Watana's "Southern Thai" cuisine said Watana stands out from the crowd because it serves "real" Thai food.

"It's more spicy, not like Thai food for Americans, which is more sweet," she said. We tried the red curry with shrimp (\$7 lunch special) and found it actually a bit bland and undeniably sweet, with chunks of pineapples to boot.

The restaurant's interior is invitingly warm and homey, and there's an indoor patio to sit down and enjoy the sun that enters through the skylight and falls onto lush greenery and a stone wall carving of elephants.

Watana Restaurant (420 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope) accepts MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner. For information, call (718) 832-1544.

BREAKING

Cocktail connoisseur David Wondrich, author of "Imbibe!: From Absinthe Cocktail to Whiskey Smash, a Salute in Stories and Drinks to 'Professor' Jerry Thomas, Pioneer of the American Bar," will unveil his latest creation, "The JakeWalk," on Thursday, May 15 at **The JakeWalk** in Carroll Gardens.

Made from Martini rum, tequila, lime juice and St. Germaine with biters, the drink will be available to a thirsty public starting May 16, and owner Patrick Watson thinks it will be a smash.

"I think it's a very refreshing drink for summer," Watson said. "It goes down smooth and is very refreshing, but it packs a punch. It would go well with choices from our 'Old Firm and Bold' category and, of course, fondue."

CHEWS

Over in Greenpoint, **Studio B** has opened its roof deck — complete with faux palm trees and a feel comparable to the club's big sister, Miami's Studio A. Down the street in Williamsburg, **Trophy**, a new bar from the folks who run **Slay Gold** gallery, will open on May 16. Starting out with beer, wine and cocktails, the bar — and its 700-square-foot back garden, which will double as a sculpture garden — will start serving panini in the coming months.

On Saturday, May 31, the **Brooklyn Pigfest** returns to the Tobacco Warehouse in DUMBO. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Brewery, the five-hour event features live music, plenty of barbecue and all the cold beer you can drink for

Wondrich of it all: "The JakeWalk" cocktail, invented by Park Slope author David Wondrich, will be introduced at the Smith Street bar of the same name on May 15.

\$85, \$95 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. Tickets are available at www.brooklynbrewery.com.

The Montauk Club welcomed a new chef this week. Alexis Tanen, formerly of Prune in the East Village, took over at the members-only Park Slope dining room.

Chicory, the eclectic eatery on De-graw Street in Cobble Hill, closed this week. The fried chicken, a neighborhood favorite, will be sorely missed.

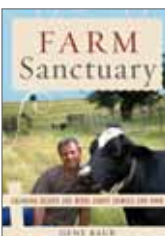
And La Traviata has closed its Joralemon Street outpost. The Brooklyn Heights Italian restaurant had previously been negotiating its lease, but now has shuttered the restaurant for good. Also gone: delivery. Orders can still be picked up at the Montague Street branch, however.

Got a hot dining tip? Drop us a line at GOBrooklyn@brooklynpaper.com. — Adam Rathe

Kinder plates

While most foodies have been made aware of the inhumane techniques used to keep calves — which are turned into veal — and geese, whose livers are fattened up for foie gras, author Gene Bauer exposes even more unappetizing ways our meat and dairy products come to the table in his new book, "Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds about Animals and Food." Bauer, who will read from his book at the Community Bookstore of Park Slope on Friday, told GO Brooklyn that he would like Brooklynites to do their part to "create kinder plates, by just being mindful of their food choices, choosing to buy foods that aren't the products of violence and cruelty."

The author is so dedicated to correcting the ills of factory farming that he created an actual farm in Watkins Glen, NY, also called "Farm Sanctuary," to care for injured or sick live-



stock. (The farm is open to the public and plans are in the works for an August "taste" with vegan foods, presentations and workshops, said Bauer.)

What might be hardest for kind-hearted Brooklyn omnivores (and cheese-lovers) to swallow, however is that Bauer is really exhorting his readers to "primarily eat plants instead of animals" — he had just enjoyed a vegetarian brunch at Williamsburg's Bliss. But what can non-vegans do to make a better life for the animals that will one day end up on our plates? "Shop at farmers markets and community supported agriculture programs," replied Bauer. "Try eating vegan one day a week and be creative. There is a mini revolution going on in New York City, including Brooklyn, in which citizens are thinking about their food choices and feeding a growing demand and interest in plant food."

Gene Bauer will read from "Farm Sanctuary" (Touchstone / Simon & Schuster, \$25) at 7:30 pm on May 16 at the Community Bookstore of Park Slope (143 Seventh Ave. at Garfield Place). For more information, call (718) 783-3075 or visit www.cjbiputerbooks.com. — Lisa J. Carter

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100 Wine Tips

Corked!

By Darrin Siegfried

Just imagine the response if the whole wine industry had been using screw-corks for generations and some bright spark popped up to tell us there was this great new thing called cork. Of course, it means that about ten per cent of wine will be tainted, there will be dulled fruit flavors, musty odour problems and variation in wines as they age. But hey, it makes a great sound when you pull it out of the bottle!

New Zealand wine writer Bob Campbell asked that in a book I've been reading about corks called "Screwed," by Tyson Stetler. There are many problems with corks as closures for wine bottles, and I'd like to address a few of them today. The wine industry has known about these problems since corks were first used, in the late 1600s. That has not been, until recently, an acceptable alternative is the only acceptable reason for the silence. With the widening use of screw caps, there are fewer spoiled wines on the market, yet many people insist on buying only wines finished with a cork.

Corks serve two purposes: to keep the wine in, and to keep air, dirt and other undesirable items out of the bottle. Because cork is made from the bark of an oak, specifically known as Cork Oak, it is a living thing and has flaws and imperfections which can lead to trouble. Most often, these problems can be divided into three areas: Taint, oxidation and bottle variation. Let's look closer.

Taint occurs when bacteria contaminates the cork and reproduces in the bottle. Wines thus affected are said to be "corked." The most common chemical compound that this interaction creates is 2,4,6-trichloranisole, and this gives the infected wine its distinct "corky" smell. At first, these wines become dull in flavor, and the fruit tastes simply disappear. At the next step of affliction, the telltale smells emerge: typically described as the smell of a damp, dirty cellar, or old, musty newspapers, or moldy cork. The wine will usually have these unpleasant flavors on the palate, as well.

Some people are more sensitive to the signs of corked wine than are others, and some are simply unaware that an infected wine really is "off." I have gone to wine tastings where dozens of people, all in the wine business, have sampled a corked bottle and none has picked up on it. If you believe that your wine is corked but you are not sure, ask someone else to smell and taste the wine. In a restaurant, refuse the corked bottle, and insist on another.

Wine oxidizes when it comes into contact with air, and a sherry-like aroma and flavor becomes apparent. When a cork

shrinks its seal is broken and wine can exit the bottle while air enters, allowing oxidation to occur. Since corks shrink when they become dry, wine bottles are stored on their sides or upside down in order to keep the cork wet. Wine corks are kept at 50-60% humidity to keep the corks from drying out. (Higher humidity won't hurt the corks, but will encourage the growth of mold and mildew, staining the labels on your bottles.)

It has often been said that there are no great vintages, only great bottles. This is because of the wide variation from bottle to bottle which older wines show. Even wines stored alongside one another, untouched, in the same cellar will quite often look, smell and taste quite different from bottle to bottle. One may be alive, vibrant, full flavored and brilliant. The next: lifeless and flat. The third: different when these bottles left the winery were the individual corks. Nothing else could contribute to such wide variations in the condition of the wine.

Taint, oxidation, bottle variation, leakage, plus other problems such as "woodiness" or "dusty corkiness," which is not actually taint... put them together and then add in long-cellarized wines (wines kept for longer than 15 years) which often "fall" at a rate of over 30%, and it is easy to understand claims that at least 10% of wine is damaged by the cork. This is the main reason why we are seeing more wines sealed with screw cap closures.

A stained cork does not mean that your wine is bad or spoiled. Often in the winery corks are placed into bottles two-fall with wine. Slowly, over a few days or weeks, some wine will leak out of the bottle until the pressure is more neutralized. Since these bottles are stored upside down or on their sides, the cork will be stained. After years as a Sommelier, opening thousands of bottles, no professional advice is this: the only way to tell if your wine is good or is spoiled is to pour some into a glass. Swirl the wine to coat the sides of the glass. Look at the color. Is the wine clear or muddy? Is the color correct, or has your red wine turned brown? Smell the wine. Clean or dirty? Appealing or "off"? If it smells as if the wine is sound, sip it. Move it around in your mouth, even chew it. You'll know if the wine is good or not. Perfectly good wine may have a rotten cork, while badly corked wine is most often sealed with a flawless cork. Stiffing the cork is useless. Use your senses. If the wine is bad, send it back and try again. And from now on, you see a screw cap, breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that your wine won't be corked.

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Present perfect: D'na Urban spa in Park Slope offers gift certificates that can be e-mailed to Mom.

Time's up: Last-minute gifts for mom

By Kate Ray
For The Brooklyn Paper

A mother's love is said to be unconditional, but it can still be strained by a forgetful son or daughter. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11, so if you haven't yet fulfilled your filial duty, there are still plenty of options for local, last-minute gifts, and we've compiled a list of some of the best:

Flowers

Sure, a floral arrangement may seem obvious, but what mother has ever been immune to the charms of a fresh, hand-delivered bouquet? One choice is Henry's Florist, a Bay Ridge staple for over 75 years. Henry's offers special Mother's Day bouquets, like "Mom's Treasure," an arrangement of chrysanthemums, alstroemeria, and a few roses in a glass vase or the "FTD Spring Garden Bouquet" featuring gerbera daisies deliv-

ered in practical pink pitcher. Each are just \$49.99. You can also add balloons or a box of chocolates to your order for an additional charge.

An \$8 delivery fee is added for Brooklyn. Henry's uses only cut flowers same-day delivery, if you place your order before 2 p.m., but recommends placing your order a day ahead for Mother's Day.

Henry's Florist is at 8103 Fifth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, and is open from 9 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday, and 9 am to 6 pm on Sundays. For more information, call (718) 238-3838 or visit www.henrysflorist.com.

Spa gift certificate

A day of pampering and rest probably sounds just about perfect to anyone living in the borough, and Mom will definitely find it at D'na Urban Spa in Park Slope. Services range from manicures (\$30), to hair-long manicures (\$115), to full spa packages (starting at \$120). Go to their Web site now to design a personalized

gift certificate to print out or e-mail straight to Mom.

D'na Urban Spa is located at 157 Fifth Ave., between Lincoln and St. John's places, in Park Slope. Open Monday through Friday, from 11 am to 9 pm, Tuesday through Friday, from 11 am to 7:30 pm, and weekends, from 10 am to 7 pm. For more information, call (718) 398-2100 or visit www.dnauropaspa.com.

Memberships

Give Mom a reason to explore nature's bounty this summer, with a membership to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden or the Brooklyn Academy of Music. A Brooklyn Botanic Garden membership costs \$40 and includes free access to the garden and discounts on classes, trips and tours, as well as a 10 percent discount at the Garden Gift Shop and Terrace Cafe. Upcoming members-only events include "Black Night," a wild and chthonic option, on June 4, and "Sunset Flights" throughout the summer. Plus, starting May

28, the BBG will be open to members for two extra hours on Wednesdays.

Or, if Mom prefers the performing arts, a gift membership to the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) will get her the inside scoop on cutting-edge theater and film.

The "Friends of BAM" membership (\$75) will give her discounts on mainstage performances for a year, while the "BAM Cinema Club membership," at \$60, includes discounted or free tickets to first-run films as well as access to advance ticket sales for the Sundance Institute film series (11 am to 6 pm).

Another alternative is "BAM cash," available in \$20 increments and good for tickets to performances of a year, while the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (900 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights) is open 8 am to 6 pm, Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am to 6 pm on weekends. The park is closed on Mondays.

From May 28 to Sept. 3, the garden

will be open until 8 pm on Wednesdays for members only. For more information, call (718) 623-7200 or visit www.bbgo.org. The Brooklyn Academy of Music box offices are located at 50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. You can buy a membership outside the cinema box office Friday through Sunday, from 5 pm to 10 pm, or by calling (718) 636-4194. To order BAM cash, call ticket services at (718) 636-4100, or go to the theater box office Monday through Saturday, from noon to 6 pm. For more information, visit www.bam.org.

Breakfast in bed

Serve Mom breakfast in bed — without getting out from under the sheets yourself. Almondine Bakery will deliver a full breakfast to any address in the DUMBO area from 10 am to noon on Sunday, May 11. All breakfasts are made for two, and come with a selection of bakery items and coffee or tea, and range in price from \$16 to \$31. Order by 11:30 pm Saturday to have it delivered on Sunday. Almondine Bakery (85 Water St. at Main Street in DUMBO) is open from 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Saturday, and 10 am to 6 pm on Sundays. For more information, call (718) 797-5026 or visit www.almondinebakery.com.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Orchestra of New York, \$20. Trolley tours from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm; concert from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. Reservations required. (718) 766-7300. Free.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents The David Gluck Kleiman Ensemble, 1:30 pm. Also, "Brooklyn Singers, Brooklyn Swings" with Amy London, London sings, tells stories and plays piano. 4 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BRIC STUDIO: presents singer-songwriter Hal Willner's "Bill Willner Project." \$12, \$10 students. 7 pm. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882.

SHAKESPEARE: "Two Gentlemen in Verona." 2 pm. See Sat., May 10.

NARROWES THEATER: "And Then There Were None." 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

ENDGAME: 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La Mancha." 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 3 pm and 7 pm. See Sat., May 10.

STREB SLAM: Extreme action. 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

BARGE MUSIC: classical music program. 4 pm. See Sat., May 10.

OTHER

BROOKLYN FLEA: The Flea, an artisan showcase, features vendors of vintage furniture, clothing and antiques along side new designs by local makers of everything from jewelry to toolies. Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Lafayette Avenue at between Clermont and Vandeventer avenues. 10 am to 5 pm. www.brooklynflea.com.

PIER SHOW: Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition annual show. 1 pm to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2266. Free.

CINEMATEK: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "True Story" (1996). \$11, \$7.50 seniors. 8:15 pm. Q and A with cinematographer Ed Lachman and musician David Byrne follows. BAM Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100. See Sat., May 10.

BKLYN DESIGNS: 11 am to 6 pm. See Sat., May 10.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace branch presents Russian musicians, singers and dancers, performing in traditional costumes. 6:30 pm. 160 E. Fifth St. (718) 686-9707. Free.

TUES, MAY 13

PERFORMANCE: Cabaret revue with the Seasoned Citizens

Theater Company, 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's New Utrecht branch, 1743 86th St. (718) 236-4086. Free.

CONCERT SERIES: As part of the Carnegie Hall Music series, Avantgarde performs. Brooklyn Public Library's Brighton Beach branch, 2 pm. www.carnegiehall.org/nyhbhoodconcerts. Free.

SENIOR MEETING: AARP Bay Ridge Chapter meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 746-9114.

YOU CAN DO IT! Entrepreneur series. Learn tips from other entrepreneurs to help you succeed. 6 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Business branch, 280 Cudman Plaza West. (718) 625-0018. Free.

FICTION SERIES: Pacific State, dante presents Douglas Martin and Arthur Phillips. 7 pm. 82 Fourth Ave. (718) 858-1951. Free.

ENDGAME: 7:30 pm. See Sat., May 10.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 3 pm and 7 pm. See Sat., May 10.

WEDS, MAY 14

WRITING WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts "What's Your Story?" a six-week writing workshop. \$150. 7 pm to 9 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 855-0018. Free.

BROOKLYN FILM FEST: The Brooklyn International Film Festival brings a selection of short Polish films to the Polish community of Greenpoint. 7 pm to 2 am. Studio 8, 259 Banker St. (718) 486-5689. Free.

ENDGAME: 7:30 pm. See Sat., May 10.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

THURS, MAY 15

PHOTO FEST: powerhouse Books hosts an exhibit featuring artists, panel discussions, lectures and more. 11 am to midnight. Book signing and party from 9 pm to midnight. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. www.nyphotofestival.com/calendar.html. Free.

RECEPTION: Safe T-Gallery hosts "Five Paintings" and Anders Guldberg's "Conflicts and Variables." 6 pm to 8 pm. 111 Front St., suite 214. (718) 782-5920. Free.

BOAT TOURS AND GALLERY SHOW: Canadian artist David Eustace exhibits his paintings

at the Brooklyn Artists Gym Gallery. Concurrent with the exhibition, Eustace offers free boat tours of the Gowanus Canal. 11 am to 4 pm. Brooklyn Artists Gym, 168 Seventh St. (718) 858-9007. Free.

LITERARY SERIES: Brooklyn Academy of Music hosts its "Eat, Drink and Be Literary" series. Tonight's guest is novelist Chinua Achebe. \$48 includes dinner, wine, dessert, coffee and talk. 6:30 pm. New Orleans-style music performing event at the dinner by Stephen Saperstein, classical pianist. Lafayette Hotel, 116 Sixth Ave. (718) 636-4100.

LAUNCH PARTY: Alaskan Books and the Brooklyn Historical Society present a book launch event for "Brooklyn Noir 3: Nothing But The Truth." Join Brooklyn Noir's editor, Tim McGarry, and Thomas Adcox, along with many of the book's contributors, for short readings from the volume. Wine and cheese reception follows. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 855-2412. Free.

SPRING CONCERT: Orchestra concert. \$10, \$5 children. 7 pm to 9 pm. Brooklyn High School of the Arts Auditorium, 345 Owen St. (718) 855-2412.

BARGE MUSIC: Jazz Night. \$25, \$30 seniors and students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

BRIC STUDIO: presents play, "Bright On Fields Lamprey's 'Tambourine Moon.'" \$12, \$10 students. 8 pm. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882.

GUITAR MUSIC: Congregation Beth Elton presents the group PITOM featuring Yoelie Ben-Zion on guitar and compositions. Jeremy Brown on violin, Shmuel Ben-Zion on bass, and Kevin Zubeck on drums. \$10. 8 pm. Congregation Beth Elton, 274 Garfield Ave. (718) 768-3814.

EXHIBIT: Henry Group Gallery presents "Brooklyn Back in the Day," featuring work by Amy Albrecht, Seter Gurner, Valtor Bellamy, Peter Esick, Tony Niles, Charles Denson and Tom Callan. 111 Front St., suite 226. (718) 488-1091. Free.

ENDGAME: 7:30 pm. See Sat., May 10.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La Mancha." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

FRI, MAY 16

PHOTO FEST: powerhouse Books hosts an exhibit featuring artists, panel discussions, lectures and more. 11 am to midnight. Awards event at 8 pm, after party at 9 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 636-4100. www.nyphotofestival.com/calendar.html. Free.

ARTS ON THE COMMONS: Outdoor concert series pre-



Fine Designs: BKLYN DESIGNS, the annual design fair hosted by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce — featuring items like the "HUGO" bowl by Desu Designs — takes over four locations in DUMBO from May 9 through May 11.

sent by Metrotech Business Improvement District. Today, with Giffett's Vendetta. Noon to 2 pm. Metrotech Commons, enter at Myrtle Avenue at Jay Street. (718) 688-5001. Free.

READING: Community Bookstore of Park Slope presents author Gene Blair, reading from his book "Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds About Animals and Food." 7:30 pm. 143 Seventh Ave. (718) 763-3075.

CHORALE MUSIC: Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra performs "A Child of Our Time." \$15. 8 pm. Church of Saint Ann and the Holy Trinity, Clinton and Montague Streets. (718) 875-0960.

STREB SLAM: Extreme action, blending dance, gymnastics, physics and the circus. 7 pm. See Sat., May 10.

ENDGAME: 7:30 pm. See Sat., May 10.

NARROWES THEATER: "And Then There Were None." 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La Mancha." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

DANCE: "The Judgment of Paris." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

BARGE MUSIC: "Your Choice" classical music program. 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 8 pm. See Sat., May 10.

SAT, MAY 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GOVANS TOUR: Self-guided canoe trip with Gowanus Dredgers. 1 pm to 5 pm. Guided tours from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Reservations. www.gowanusdredgers.com. Free.

MOONLIGHT, FLASHLIGHT AND FOOTLIGHTS: Green-Wood Cemetery hosts its annual walk featuring live accordion music, a visit to the Catacombs and the light of a full moon. \$20, \$10. 7:45 pm. Meet at 25th Street and Fifth Ave. (718) 768-7200.

PERFORMANCE

ENDGAME: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Samuel Beckett's "Endgame." John Turturro stars along with Max Casella, Michael Imperioli and Alvin Epstein. \$25 to \$75. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 384-4100.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: presents "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." \$20, \$18 seniors. 3 pm and 7 pm. Harry Warner Theater, 2445 Bush Ave. (718) 996-4800.

STREB SLAM: Extreme action, blending dance, gymnastics, physics and the circus. \$20, \$10 kids. 3 pm to 7 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 352-3101.

CHORAL MUSIC: Brooklyn Philharmonic Chorus performs Mozart's "Requiem." \$20. 7:30 pm. St. Augustine's Church, 116 Sixth Ave. (718) 636-4100.

SALON SERIES: Brave New World Repertory Theater presents "Molieres 'School for Wives.'" \$18. Dinner at 7:30 pm. reading at 8 pm. Waterfront Museum, 290 Conover

choreographers and dancers perform. 295 Douglass St. (718) 408-3233.

THEATER SERIES: The Brick Theater and Third Loos Productions hosts the honor mystery series "Penny Dreadful, Episode 7." \$8, 10:30 pm. 25 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-6191.

OTHER

PHOTO FEST: powerhouse Books hosts an exhibit featuring artists, panel discussions, lectures and more. 11 am to midnight. Evening event of short films by prominent contemporary photographers. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 636-4100. www.nyphotofestival.com/calendar.html. Free.

TO commemorate the 60th anniversary of Israel, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Live and Become."

Workshop presents Spring Into Dance III. 7:30 pm. Young

St. (718) 624-4119.

BRIC STUDIO: presents play, "Tambourine Moon." \$12, \$10 students. 8 pm. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882.

NARROWES THEATER: "And Then There Were None." \$15, \$12 seniors and children. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 97th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DANCE: Dance group Company XIV performs "The Judgment of Paris," a sexy and theatrical dance show. \$20, \$15 seniors. 8 pm. 303 Bond St. (212) 868-4444.

DANCE: Sprockle the Hubs' Young Artists Ensemble performs "Spring Into Dance III." 7:30 pm. Young

big-band concert and part dance party. \$12. 2 pm. Walt Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College, 2000 Campus Rd. (718) 951-4600.

CONCERT SERIES: As part of the Carnegie Hall Music series, Retumba performs. 2 pm. Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 368-6680. Free.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, 4 pm. Dweck Center, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Here and Now: American Contemporary Music Series lectures music of Paul Schoenfeld. \$40, \$15 seniors and students. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

CONCERT: Union Church presents "The Melochords." See the Beatles. 4 pm. 8101 Ridge Blvd. (718) 785-0438.

SALON SERIES: "School for Wives." Brunch at 12:30 pm. See Sat., May 17.

ENDGAME: 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

CHORALE MUSIC: Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra performs. 3 pm. See Fri., May 16.

NARROWES THEATER: "And Then There Were None." 3 pm. See Sat., May 10.

PHOTO FEST: powerhouse Books hosts an exhibit featuring artists, panel discussions, lectures and more. 11 am to midnight. Evening event of short films by prominent contemporary photographers. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 636-4100. www.nyphotofestival.com/calendar.html. Free.

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Then There Were None." 3 pm. See Sat., May 17.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Man of La Mancha." 3 pm. See Sat., May 17.

STREB SLAM: Extreme action, blending dance, gymnastics, physics and the circus. 3 pm. See Sat., May 17.

RYAN REPERTORY COMPANY: "Ben — A Very Personal Account of Benjamin Franklin." 3 pm and 7 pm. See Sat., May 17.

SECRETS AND SYMBOLISM: Green-Wood Cemetery introduces participants to the world of symbols found throughout the grounds. \$10. 11 am. Reservations required. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 768-7200.

READING SERIES: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch hosts a Russian Literary Series. Today, linguist innovator Yuz Alekshinsky reads. 1:30 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

RECYCLING: Department of Sanitation sponsors a spring cleaning event. Bring your old electronics and clothing to be recycled. Willis D. Wood, Prospect Park. Enter park at Flatbush Avenue and Englewood. Call 311 for info.

PHOTO FEST: 11 am to 7 pm. See Sat., May 17.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Nine Days in Brooklyn, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by e-mail: calendars@brooklynpaper.com; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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Changing of the 'Guard'

Meet the new, younger face of the Brooklyn Public Library's members

By Adam Rathe

The Brooklyn Paper

Things weren't so quiet at the Central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library when the Brooklyn Vanguard had its last event. A phalanx of young Brooklynites, clad in their nightclub best, streamed into the library's Dweck Center on Grand Army Plaza, but this was no study group.

"Library After Dark," as the night was billed, was the first event from the Brooklyn Vanguard, a new group of library boosters in their 20s and 30s whose goals include fundraising for the BPL and making it a destination for the borough's cultural elite.

"One of the reasons I got involved [with the BPL] was because I've been to events at cultural institutions outside of the borough, but with other institutions, I wouldn't be able to toss a stone in the pond and create a ripple effect," said

Kevin Penberton, 37, who founded the Brooklyn Vanguard. "The library does not have to be a place where one falls asleep. The BPL is a state of the art facility — we have materials, services and resources. We are the genesis for thinking; it all starts at the library."

If you missed the inaugural event, on Saturday, May 10, the group will host a cabaret-style performance featuring Mo'Nique and The Love Storm. Following the show — which will consist of poetry, spoken word and live music — the artists will mingle with guests at a wine and cheese reception.

Penberton's love for the library took root when he was growing up in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens. He and his brothers spent time at the local branch, where his father worked after emigrating from the Caribbean.

"I like to be involved with the library," he said, "because it's a place where my journey began with books. It allowed me

to go out as a professional and make my mark in the world."

After making the move to Manhattan and working his way up the Wall Street ladder — he's a vice president at Newberger Berman, an investment advisory firm — Penberton returned to the borough 18 months ago and settled into his Fort Greene home. It wasn't long before he found himself at the library's Central branch.

"We were approached by Kevin [Penberton], who had an idea of starting a young donors group in Brooklyn," said BPL Executive Director Diome Mack-Harvin. "At that time, we were planning the Dweck Center, and knew we would have a venue that could contribute to the success of the group. The two things together were perfect timing."

In October 2007, the library opened the Dr. S. Stevan Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture, a 189-seat space with two conference rooms, two lobbies and a stage for presentations. The center was made possible by a \$1.5-million donation from Dweck, a psychologist and Bensonhurst native, who gave the money in honor of his late brother, Harry Dweck.

"The Dweck allows us to expand our

programs and gives us an opportunity to bring people in and to see the Central library as a borough-wide resource," said Mack-Harvin.

In 2007, the BPL offered 37,000 classes, which were attended by 800,000 people. What was missing, according to Mack-Harvin, was exactly the group of people that Penberton proposed to bring in.

"This demographic is a very important population for us to keep engaged. When people are students, the library is a natural place to go. But once they're out of school, what role does the library play for that population?" asked Mack-Harvin. "[Brooklyn Vanguard] will bring people to the library and help them understand that we're not what we used to be."

And while a good time was had by all — especially once the evening's proceeds were tallied at \$16,000, which will benefit the African American Heritage Center at the library's Mac-con branch in Bedford-Stuyvesant — thanks to an open bar and music from DJ Rich Medina, it was only the beginning for the Vanguard.

"I'm excited about the possibilities here," said Penberton, who plans events along with a 20-member "Founders Committee." "It couldn't have happened at a greater time."

Block buster lineup

Tours offer peeks into homes, gardens

By Linnea Covington

The Brooklyn Paper

The Federal-style houses on State Street in Brooklyn Heights will grace movie screens across the country this summer in the Coen brothers' new film, "Burn After Reading," but neighborhood residents have known about the buildings, built in 1826, for years.

On Saturday, May 10, one of those houses and four others will be open to the public as part of the annual Brooklyn Heights Landmark House and Garden tour.

"We want people to know about historic districts and appreciate them," said tour organizer Judy Stanton. "It's a way of celebrating historic preservation."

The tour is a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Heights Association and has been led by the group since 1985. Stanton said, depending on weather, up to 800 people have attended past tours.

This year's house tour also includes an 1860s carriage house, an Italianate row house, a modern carriage house built in 1992 and an 1840s Greek Revival row house.

Also, for the first and only time, the grand foyer of the Hotel Bossert on Montague Street will be shown.



"This is voyeurism," said Stanton. "People want to see how others live."

Brooklyn Heights Landmark House and Garden tour is May 10. The self-guided tour starts at 1 pm at St. Ann's School (129 Pierpont St., at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). Tickets are \$30. For information, call (718) 858-9193 or visit www.brooklynheightsassociation.org.

The Park Slope Civic Council tour will take place on May 18. The tour begins at noon at Berkeley Carroll School (181 Lincoln Pl. at Seventh Avenue) and runs till 5 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 day of the tour. For information, call (718) 832-8227 or visit www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org.

The Prospect-Lefferts Gardens self-guided tour will be on June 1, from noon till 5 pm. Tickets are sold at K-Dog & Dumbeggy Cafe (3 Lincoln Rd. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens). They are \$20 in advance or \$25 day of the tour. For information, call (718) 284-6210 or visit www.leffertsgardens.org.

Also on June 1 is the Boerum Hill House and Garden tour, which runs from 1 pm to 5 pm. The tour begins at Bishop Maguvero Center (155 Dean St. at Hoyt Street). Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 day of the tour. For information, visit www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org or call (718) 928-2425.

The Victorian Flatbush tour will take place on June 8, from 1 pm to 6 pm. The tour begins at Temple Beth El (83 Marborough Rd. at Church Avenue in Flatbush). For information, visit www.fdcollins.org or call (718) 859-3800.



Gracious homes: Brooklyn residents open their houses to the public for the Brooklyn Heights Landmark House and Garden tour on May 10 (above) and Prospect-Lefferts Gardens tour on June 1 (above right).

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To honor the volunteers for their invaluable contributions, NYM recently held the 2008 Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

The Ann Chisena Award for Community Involvement was presented to Diana Rivers and Alyson Grant.

Bob Icar and his wife Jane Landis were the recipients of the Marie La Ruffa Award for Patient Care.

The Frank Spera Award for Dependability was presented to Tom Deleage.

Tara Greene was the recipient of the Mary Velez Emergency Room Award for Excellence.

The New York Methodist Auxiliary Award for Outstanding Service by a High School Student was given to Madiha Saba, a senior at Xavierian High School.

"Our volunteers understand that they are here for patients and strive to provide the best support possible," said Mimi Makovitzky, director of education and volunteer resources at NYM.

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Jen and Paul: We hardly knew ye!

So, Jennifer Connelly and Paul Bettany are selling their gorgeous limestone mansion on Third Street West for a cool \$8.5 million and buying a place in Tribeca.

Sure, the mansion is a bit out of Smartmom's price range, but she did check out the listing on the Sotheby's Web site, where the home is called "one of the all-time great houses of New York [where] sunlight fills the grandly proportioned rooms all day long through oversized windows." (Oh, so that explains why Connelly and Bettany always had their shades drawn tight!)

Of course, the neighborhood is abuzz. In Smartmom's case, the buzz started at 3 am on Tuesday, with that first e-mail from her twin sister, Diaper Diva. Luckily Smartmom was sleeping on Third Street, so the pair chatted in the old-fashioned way — over their cellphones.

"One thing you have to say is they kept up the integrity of it," Diaper Diva told Smartmom as they surveyed the pictures together. They kept the original details and decorated with a light touch. I like the mix of the mid-century with the Victorian.

Then Diaper Diva went back to bed. But Smartmom couldn't sleep as she tried to figure out how Jen and Paul could possibly walk away from all that? Why would anyone — espe-

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SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

the corner of Carroll Street is a Slope dream, a home to lust over: a historic, 5,200-square-foot mansion crammed with architectural details and facing a beloved park. If they were miserable in a house like that, what does that say about the rest of us? (You got it: we're more miserable!)

Then again, if Jennifer Connelly can walk away from such a great home, maybe it is possible for all of us to give up the material things that we always think will make our lives so wonderful (but never do).

Smartmom would prefer to think that Connelly, a lifelong Brooklynite, just wants to try life on the other side of the East River. That would be less of a blow to Slopers because we all know that Park Slope is a Shangri-La compared to Tribeca.

Still, Smartmom still took it personally. After all, she liked having the actors as neighbors.

They were just a nice couple with kids. All right, they were Hollywood royalty — she has an Oscar; he has, well, those tall, gorgeous, British good looks — but they were good Slopers. They kept a low profile. They seemed smart. They filled their front gar-

No lie: This 'Pinocchio' rocks

By Thurston Dooley III for The Brooklyn Paper

There is one truly transcendent moment in Puppetworks' latest production of "Pinocchio."

It comes midway through, when Mike Leach, who brings a rare rave and gusto to what could have been the tired Strumboli role, enters the action and sits down to converse with Pinocchio. This breaking of the so-called "Fifth Wall" of puppet theater is nothing short of stunning — a moment when the human world and puppet world come together.

And indeed, it is not what Carlo Collodi's classic 1882 fairy tale is all about? Does not the sight of a grown man sitting next to a marionette remind us of the existential fragility of our egg-shell humanity? In that moment, as Camus might say, is not Strumboli the puppet and Pinocchio the man? Are we not all on someone's strings?

The moment quickly passes, but its effect lingers, eventually giving way to another great bit of theater: a glittery, pyrotechnic underwater scene that evokes the fantasy that is often forgotten in this timeless story.

As always, Nicolas Coppola's handmade marionettes are stunning, but the true magic of Puppetworks' "Pinocchio" is the non-Disneyified story of the puppet who figures out what it takes to be a real boy (here's a hint: don't give away all your money to that nasty ice-cream vendor).

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FAMILY CALENDAR
Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SATURDAY, MAY 10
10 am-4 pm: Spring carnival. PS 25 Smith and Carroll streets in Carroll Gardens. Call (917) 624-1323 for info.
11 am: Art workshop. Brooklyn Museum 200 Eastern Pkwy, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. \$8, free for members under 12 and younger. Call (718) 638-5000 for info.
11 am: Dr. Seuss story time. Barnes and Noble 100 Court St., at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn. Free. Call (718) 246-4996 for info.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." Puppetworks. (718) 538-5807 for info.
5 pm: Concert. Uncle Rock/RobertWarner performs. Jewish Brooklyn Kitchen 200 Smith St., at 25th St. in Carroll Gardens. Call (718) 658-8807 for info.
SUNDAY, MAY 11
11 am and 1:30 pm: Cookie decorating class. Center for Kosher Culinary Arts 1407 Corney Island Ave., at Avenue J in Midwood. Kids early session; teens late session. Call (718) 513-9934 for info.
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, May 10.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, May 10.
SATURDAY, MAY 17
11 am: Curious George story time. Barnes and Noble 100 Court St., at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn. Free. Call (718) 538-5807 for info.
To list your event, e-mail information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.

Uncle Rock — also known as Robert Burke Warren — will perform on Saturday, May 3.
(421 Fifth Ave., at Eighth Street in Park Slope) \$20 pair, \$15 single. Call (718) 832-0018.

SUNDAY, MAY 18
2 pm: African music and magic. Prospect Park's Audubon Center (enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue). Free. Call (646) 221-5608 for info.
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, May 10.

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quire ry's	Fun fact that won't help him in the paint	Marty owns a parrot named Beep

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Manhattan - Riverside State Park, 145th St. & Riverside Drive (Fort Washington)
Bronx - Roberto Clemente State Park, West Tremont & Matthewson Road (Morris Heights)
Brooklyn - Estimote Fulton Ferry State Park, 26 West Dock Street (DUMBO)
Queens - Gantry Plaza State Park, Center Boulevard at 80th Street (LIC City)

State Parks is seeking cart vendors who will provide only healthy pre-packaged foods and whole fresh fruit including but not limited to pre-packaged snacks such as nuts and granola bars, juices, salads, pre-packaged sandwiches and/or wraps and other healthy food alternatives for sale. Vendors must possess certificates issued by the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene certifying compliance with city standards for mobile cart service.

People interested in applying for a permit to operate in a New York State park should send a letter, a proposed menu with prices to be charged, a proposed schedule of operation for the park(s) selected and a description of how the operation will be kept compliant with NYC Health Department requirements for food holding temperatures and hygiene standards for food preparation and service. New York State requires food vendors to carry commercial liability insurance (bodily injury, property damage and product liability) and Workers Compensation insurance. The cost of the permit will be determined by the menu and price list presented with the proposal, but will not exceed \$500 for the summer season (Memorial Day to September 30).

Send letters of interest by May 16, 2008 to:

Healthy Cart Permit
 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 New York City Region
 163 West 125th Street, 17th Floor
 New York, NY 10027

'Banner' day for Henry

By Emily Levin
 and Mike McLaughlin
 The Brooklyn Paper

Tree-lined Henry Street was briefly turned into one long billboard, but Brooklyn Heights residents erupted after seeing commercial banners on the mostly residential street, so the city removed them.

On Monday, banners reading "Brooklyn lives to shop" were hung on lamp posts from Clark to Montague streets — and locals slammed the commercialization of the strip.

"I absolutely detest them," said Veronica Rylander, 48. "They're so out of place here above all these houses. I feel like it cheapens the look of the neighborhood."

For Liana Schwartz, 36, it wasn't the

aesthetics, but the practicality of the banners that provoked her disdain.

"I just don't even get why they're hanging here," said Schwartz. "Wouldn't it make more sense to put them Downtown or on streets where there are actually places to shop?"

After The Brooklyn Paper started asking local officials about the appropriateness of posting ads in a residential corridor, the banners were taken down and relocated to commercial Court Street on Wednesday morning.

The banners — which are sponsored by Greek natural skincare company Korres, which just opened on Montague Street, and NYC& Co., the city's tourist board — also annoyed people who think tourism officials don't get Brook-

lyn — or maybe get it too well.

"They put those signs on Henry because they know there are lots of cars speeding through here," said one man.

The quick response to the complaints showed that Korres listens to neighbors, said Chelsea Maudlin, executive director of the Montague Street Business Improvement District.

"They very much want to be good neighbors," said Maudlin.

It's one small step for neighbors, one giant step for Henry Street.

"We are very pleased..." by the Department of Transportation, which was reminded that Henry Street is residential, except for a few corners," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association.



These pro-shopping banners showed up on Henry Street, but were quickly removed after complaints.

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FOSSELLA'S SHAME...



Rep. Vito Fossella met the press on Staten Island last Friday to apologize for his May 1 drunk-driving arrest in Virginia. Fossella's wife, Mary Pat, is seated in the center of the front row.

Continued from page 1

by 12:15 a.m. on May 1, was across the Potomac in Alexandria, Virginia, where he was quickly pulled over after a cop saw his car going through a stop sign.

He failed a number of sobriety tests, including being unable to stand on one foot or recite the alphabet starting from the letter D. Fossella first started with "A" rather than "D," according to the police report, and then said, "D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T."

He was arrested based on those field sobriety tests, according to Alexandria's Commonwealth Attorney Randolph Sengel, the city's prosecutor.

Two hours later, a blood-alcohol test registered 0.17 — more than twice the legal limit. Given that the body metabolizes alcohol at a rate of .015 percent per hour, Fossella was somewhat more intoxicated — with a blood alcohol level of an high as .20 — when he got behind the wheel of the car.

The police station mugshot (page 1) showed him still haggard, with bloodshot eyes.

At the stationhouse, Fossella told Alexandria police he was headed to see his "sick daughter," giving police a street name that matched the street where Fay lives with the 3-year-old girl.

Seven hours after his arrest, Fossella was bailed out by Fay.

Fay and Fossella had already crossed paths by then. The two were known to have been at an Air Force dinner in Britain in 2003 — a dinner which Fossella's wife did not.

These revelations raised the suggestion that the congressman was having an extramarital affair and had a daughter with Fay.

At this point, Fossella dipped into campaign funds to hire outside public relations consultant Susan Del Percio. She said Fay

his drinking and driving "an error in judgment."

"I apologize to my family and the constituents of the 13th Congressional District for embarrassing them."

On Friday afternoon, he held a press conference on Staten Island to restate his apology.

"I know better than to get behind the wheel of a car even after only one drink," he told a crowd of reporters and two dozen family members and friends — including his wife Mary Pat — who were given reserved seats in the front two rows.

He vowed not to resign and fielded some questions from reporters, but he refused to provide a full accounting of the previous night, such as why he was in Virginia.

Only afterwards did reporters uncover that he had been hailed out by Fay, rather than his chief of staff, who also lives in Alexandria.

Fay is a single mom whose daughter, divorce papers showed, was not fathered by her ex-husband City Michael Sheaf. The couple ended their marriage in 2005.

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These revelations raised the suggestion that the congressman was having an extramarital affair and had a daughter with Fay.

At this point, Fossella dipped into campaign funds to hire outside public relations consultant Susan Del Percio. She said Fay

is a "close friend," but refused to elaborate on the nature of their relationship.

In fact, she said it was "de-meaning and highly inappropriate" for the media to ask whether Fossella — the father of three children with his wife of 18 years — had fathered Fay's child.

But Fay clearly knew something was up, making a flurry of phone calls to friends and relatives, urging them not to divulge any information about her personal life to the media.

But people did talk.

The Post quoted a family friend saying that Fossella's wife would leave him if the rumored affair turned out to be true. And the Daily News ran a photo taken on Wednesday showing Fossella without his wedding band.

Hours later, the congressman admitted that he was an adulterer who had a double life in D.C.

FALLOUT

Two Democrats vying for the chance to take on Fossella in November — Steve Harrison, who lost to Fossella in 2006, and Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island) — thought he was beatable even before the arrest and admission of philandering.

The've adopted polar opposite responses to the incumbent's troubles.

Recchia has sat this right out, repeatedly declining to comment publicly, but Harrison pounced on Fossella.

"As elected officials, we have an obligation to set an example

for society," Harrison said.

He's been relentless in his criticism.

"Now is the time when he needs to make a determination on whether he can still service the people of this district," he said.

Supporters were sticking with Fossella — at least before the extra-marital rumors started flying.

"If you knew the person, you'd know he's a great guy," said Frank Rappocciolo, a friend of the family, at the press conference last Friday.

"He does great things for Staten Island and part of Brooklyn."

As the week wore on, and Fossella's political base was crumbling, there was louder talk that he would resign or drop his bid for re-election so a viable GOP candidate could tangle with whoever wins the Democratic nomination.

"The retired Air Force woman and the child is of concern to a lot of people," said a political consultant, before Fossella issued his paternity statement.

If Fossella were to resign, Gov. Paterson could call for a special election to fill out the term.

In the more-likely scenario that Fossella remains in office but does not seek re-election, a number of Staten Island Republicans — including James Oddo and District Attorney Daniel Donovan — are being seen as logical Republican candidates.

Fossella is due to appear for a hearing in an Alexandria courtroom on Monday, May 12.

Writ large

City firm moves some staff to Downtown

By Mike McLaughlin
 The Brooklyn Paper

A heavyweight Manhattan law firm is transferring some of its back office employees to Metrotech, but the firm's attorneys won't dirty their white shoes in Downtown Brooklyn.

News that the venerable firm of Weil, Gotshal will relocate workers from its IT, finance and operations departments, currently in Midtown, to Bruce Ratner's Downtown campus this summer was hailed as a major win for the Brooklyn's business community.

But the announcement initially sounded more monumental for Metrotech — whose tenants include behind-the-scenes employees of JPMorgan Chase and Bear Stearns. On Tuesday, Forest City Ratner Executive Vice President MaryAnne Gilmarin trumpeted the Weil, Gotshal news at the Brooklyn East Estate Roundtable, claiming that the deal would involve high-priced law partners and their big expense accounts.

Such "front office" relocations are "a paragon shift" for Metrotech, Gilmarin said.

But hours later, the law firm put out a press release that revealed that only a small portion of its staff will move to 15 Metrotech, between the Myrtle Avenue promenade and Tech Place, this summer. The firm would not say how many of its 1,300 Manhattan-based employees would end up in Brooklyn.

Still, Downtown boosters were pleased by the news.

"Attracting a blue chip law firm to the mix of tenants here sends a strong signal that Brooklyn's economy is strong," said Robert Catell, co-chairman of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership.

The Weil, Gotshal report follows other rental news for Ratner's Metrotech complex. El Diario, the Spanish-language newspaper, recently inked a deal for office space there.





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